

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants again thank Examiner Hollington for his careful examination of this application and the clear explanation of the objection to the drawing and the claim rejections. In response, applicants amend the application as follows:

1. canceling claims 1-10, 22, and 23.
2. deleting the term "plurality of phase comparator circuits" from claim 21 to remove the objection noted in section 1 of the Office Action.
3. amending claim 21 to add distinguishing limitations not disclosed in the Hasegawa reference. As amended, the testing system includes:
 - a. a plurality of integrated circuit device under test, each having a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) circuit; and
 - b. an external comparator device associated with each DUT that is operable to generating a corrective signal for adjusting the operating frequency of the DUT.

Elements (a) and (b) are clearly depicted, for example, in Figs. 1 and 2A of the original drawings – the VCO circuit 90 is in DUT 130 and the comparator device 78 is external to the DUT. Contrarily, the Hasegawa reference discloses a test method for testing "semiconductor integrated circuit which contained [the] phase locked loop circuit."¹

Because the Hasegawa reference does not disclose a comparator circuit external to the device under test, it does not anticipate claim 21; and applicants respectfully submit that claim 21, as amended, stands patentable over the Hasegawa reference.

4. Claims 24 and 25 properly depend from claim 21, and therefore, stand patentable by virtue of their dependence.

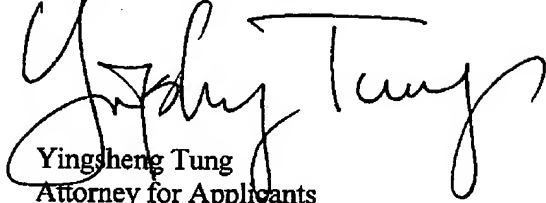
In summary, applicants respectfully submit that the amended application is in allowable form and the pending claims distinguish over the cited reference and stand

¹ JP409181133A, [Field of the Invention].

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patentable. Applicants respectfully request that the amendment be entered and the pending claims be timely allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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